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To: Haley, Nikki
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Subject: SXSWedu highlights big players in making

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There is no shortage of edtech upstarts (and startups) at this year's SXSWedu
conference in Austin, Texas. Ayah Bdeir, founder of littleBits, spoke about how
makerspaces need to reach beyond students who are already interested in
engineering and technology. Christine Ortiz, dean of Massachusetts Institute of
Technology, spoke about the new university she is starting from scratch
<http://statescoop.us7.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=
2ccc01e3bfaef269042232521&id=58ccdc8530&e=d22ace373d>, which will
prioritize personalized and project-based learning. And there's even a mobile
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2ccc01e3bfaef269042232521&id=7245730cb1&e=d22ace373d> that brings
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Innovation in higher education was a major focus of Day 1 at SXSWedu, with
Christine Ortiz in conversation <http://statescoop.us7.list-
manage.com/track/click?u=2ccc01e3bfaef269042232521&id=2657a9e725
&e=d22ace373d> about how she is envisioning the new university. The college
of the future, which she is planning to open in the Boston area once she steps
down from MIT, will break down barriers between undergraduate and graduate
studies, and allow students to learn on "pathways" that are developed by
partners in industry. Everything at the college will be tech-infused and project-

based, with no lectures.

Success stories at SXSWedu included one from Jason Martin, founder of the STE(A)M Truck, which stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math. Martin turned a friend's solar-powered biodiesel truck into a [mobile innovation lab <http://statescoop.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ccc01e3bfaef269042232521&id=7493e7a2b3&e=d22ace373d>](http://statescoop.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ccc01e3bfaef269042232521&id=7493e7a2b3&e=d22ace373d), and now visits hundreds of students in Georgia each year to teach them about building and makerspaces. He is planning to scale the program to reach more than 4,000 students by 2019. The former Teach for America teacher said he's trying to disrupt the traditional way students are learning.

Cameron Evans, CTO of Microsoft, sat down [with us again <http://statescoop.us7.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=2ccc01e3bfaef269042232521&id=4cfd0dfe9e&e=d22ace373d>](http://statescoop.us7.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=2ccc01e3bfaef269042232521&id=4cfd0dfe9e&e=d22ace373d) at the edtech conference and shared some insights about how the role of school tech directors will change over the next several years. Evans said there should no longer be on CIO or CTO who makes most of the decisions for the whole school, but rather a team of innovators and technology specialists. He even said that the same thinking applies to the CTO role at Microsoft. "I think we are still doing things in a way that the world used to look," he said. "We're not bringing versatility to those roles."

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